

# Notre Dame Student Senate

## Executive Summary

April 6, 2003

Notre Dame Room, LaFortune

### I. Opening Business

- a. Chairman, Jeremy Lao, called to order the informal meeting at 6:34 p.m.
- b. Senators: Brian Agganis, JR Garcia, Jana Lamplota, Suja Pandya, Andrew Sanstrum, and Lauren Williams were absent.

### II. 2003-2004 Budget

- a. Approval this Wednesday
  - i. Jeremy Lao reminded Senators that approval of the 2003-2004 budget will take place at the next Senate meeting this Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> in order to meet the approval deadline outlined in the Constitution (April 15<sup>th</sup>). The budget is very important because it deals with such a large amount of money, this year \$724,510. The Senate has the power to change and/or to approve the budget. Do take into consideration that the Financial Management Board (FMB) did spend a great deal of time preparing this budget; however, if you would like to make an amendment please present get a resolution to Jeremy by Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> so that it can be included on the agenda.
  - ii. Discussion/Questions: Ryan Finlen inquired what the CCC was. Jeremy informed the Senate that all clubs fall under the Club Coordination Council (CCC). The CCC oversees each club and decides issues such as if they can set up a concession stand in the fall. David Osburn asked why concerts under SUB received an increase of over \$38,000 this year. Jeremy said that Charlie Ebersol, SUB Manager, plans to hold a non-profit concert in October, *Sinner and Saints*, in which any extra money will be donated to a charity. The extra money allotted this year to SUB was for this concert. The CCC, however, will hold a budget review in the fall to see if SUB used the money they had requested and received and if the concerts are being carried out. If the money is not used it may be redistributed. David asked if *Sinner and Saints* was a new idea this year. Jeremy stated yes it is new and it is different from anything else at Notre Dame. Ryan asked when it will be decided if SUB will plan 2 or 3 concerts. Jeremy believes it is just an estimate on SUB's behalf. David asked if clubs extra funds run over to next year. Jeremy stated that the extra funds for SUB this year were put towards the Everclear concert. Pat Hallahan added that the reason clubs can receive an increase in funds is because there has been an increase of over \$80,000 of new money as a result of the increase in the student activities fee. He also mentioned that of the money allotted, 36.75% automatically goes to the Club Coordination Council (CCC) and HPC received a small increase for hall dances. HPC will also receive another \$1,000 from Fr. Poorman mandated by the Board of Trustees. A good deal of this money was given to SUB since this is where student interests are located. It was also inquired how the Senate uses the funds it receives. Jeremy replied that it is used to defer costs such as off-campus dinners, copies, constitution publication, and the Michael J. Palumbo award. Ryan asked why the Class of 2004 received fewer funds than any of the other classes because the reason listed by the FMB was the they felt that the class was planning more events than it could handle, however, Ryan felt the other classes were planning numerous events as well. He asked if this could be amended. Jeremy informed the Senate that at the Executive Cabinet meeting this past Thursday the Senior Class President expressed some disappointment in the way the funds were allotted and that it is possible to amend this, but the resolution can not be presented until the official meeting on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Pat also encouraged everyone to come prepared with question because the FMB did do a lot of research before allocating funds, however, this does not mean they distributed them the best way possible. They FMB will be at the meeting on Thursday to answer questions and defend their allocations. Pat also encouraged Senators to ask questions, \$700,000 is a lot of money. He also notified Senators that it is possible to

suspend the rules of the Constitution that says Senate must approve the budget by April 15<sup>th</sup> if they are not ready to vote. The concern was addressed of not wanting to write a resolution if it was not the general consensus of the Senate. Jeremy suggested calling other Senators for their opinions or just presenting it to the floor if you believe the resolution is strong enough. Pat added that it is possible to come up with a resolution at Thursday's meeting, however, something must be written up for that resolution. Jordan Bongiovanni inquired what the main things were that the FMB looks at to determine fund allotment. Jeremy said that each group prepares a proposal of their budget stating each event and the estimated costs. The group then meets with the FMB to support what they have on paper. Pat added that the FMB also looks back at last years funds to see if all the funds were used. For example, for the OoP they had \$20,000 left over so this year the OoP received \$5,000 less than requested. Kaity Redfield inquired why the OoP did not receive funding for the Summer Internship Student Support Fund. Jeremy replied that the FMB did not think that enough information was provided over this issue and that funds could be better used elsewhere. Laura Feeney pointed out that the FMB serves as a check for all the other groups funds, but who serves as a check for them, because they received the exact amount they requested. Jeremy replied that the Senate must approve the budget and serves as a check. Brin also expressed the concern that 45 clubs did not submit a budget request to the CCC by the deadline and when someone spoke with the CCC they said they would not allocate funds to the clubs who did not submit a budget in time. FMB, however, gave the CCC \$20,000 for this purpose. Jeremy suggested Brin bring this up to one of the FMB members at the next meeting.

### III. Resolutions

- a. Constitutions
  - i. Everyone present received this years updated version of the Constitution. Please take a look at it.
- b. Sample Resolution
  - i. Everyone received two sample resolutions as examples when preparing one.
  - ii. Jeremy mentioned there are two ways to present a resolution. The first way is by stating WHERE AS and then the reason or the second way is by using an ACTION VERB. At the end of the resolution state THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED and the solution.
- c. Research and Backing
  - i. Jeremy also mentioned that if a resolution does get sent to the Academic Affairs Office, the Office of the Provost, or the Office of Student Affairs it is key to include research and backing to support opinions. Pat added that they also like to see if peer schools are doing what you are recommending.

### IV. Structure of Power

- a. CLC & Sening resolutions directly to University Offices
  - i. The Campus Life Council is directly related to residence life. CLC includes 6 faculty members, three senators including the off-campus senator, one absently senator, the SUB Manager, the Judicial Council President, one of the HPC co-chairs, a Diversity Council member, the Student Body President and Vice President, 2 faculty members, 6 rectors, and Dr. Moss-Assistant VP of Student Affairs, directly under Fr. Poorman. If it gets passed in Senate it will directed to the CLC. The CLC will discuss the proposal; if it gets voted in then the suggestion goes to Fr. Poorman for changes in something like DuLac or the Student Affairs Policy. The resolution on in-hall dances will get sent to the CLC within the next week or two. CLC is powerful because if a person can get faculty, students, and administration to suggest a change then Fr. Poorman at least has to consider it, but not necessarily make the change. If the resolution is not related to Student Affairs, Jeremy Lao and Pat Hallahan will sign the resolution and forward it to the correct office; for example the resolution on the TCE's went to Nathan Hatch in the Office of the Provost.
  - ii. Discussion/Questions: Jordan inquired how often resolutions go through the CLC. Pat replied that anything must have a 2/3 vote and there are 18 members and 7 of these

members are rectors and administrators, so students are 1 vote short. However, faculty usually votes with students. If you are talking about parietals or the alcohol policy, then the administrators usually already have their mind set. A new policy, recently administered about seven years ago, now allows the VP of Student Affairs a week to respond to the CLC rather than 48 hours. Jordan asked if it was possible for the Senate to change the structure of the CLC but by pass their vote on this issue. Pat said that most issues would go first to the CLC but if it was felt that the CLC did not consider the request fairly, the next step would be taking it to the Board of Trustees.

## V. Observer Articles

- i. There were comments made previously by some Executive Cabinet members that the Senate was too powerful. Jeremy believes in what the Senate can do and thinks that the best way for the Senate to improve is to receive more respect from the administrators. To receive this respect the Senate needs to improve the amount of research it does on the resolutions. He is looking forward to making things better for students this year.
- ii. Next week there is a referendum vote on in-hall dances. There is already a website, created by the OIT, you can log on and answer five simple questions to give your opinion. Jeremy will call the Observer to run a few articles and put something on Irishlink about it. The survey will run Wednesday at 12 a.m. until Friday at 12 p.m. There will be three \$100 prize giveaways of American Express gift cards. Encourage others to vote, so that we can see what students would like to see happen. Senate will see the results of this referendum to show the CLC next Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

## VI. Committees

- i. A tentative list of the committees was sent around for corrections. The Ethics Committee will be drawn this Thursday. Jordan asked why Senators could not sign up for the Ethics Committee. Jeremy commented that the committee only meets when needed; for example if there are concerns about the attendance policy. Pat added that the Senate does not want members to sit on the Ethics Committee who will just vote to allow themselves to do anything. The committee also picks the Michael J. Palumbo Award. Brin asked when the goal was for the committees to have their first meeting. Jeremy said as soon as possible after the Ethics Committee is chosen. There will be liaisons serving on the committees until the fall and at the first meeting the committees will choose a chair.

## VII. Announcements

- i. David Osburn commented that O'Neillweek is coming up and this past Saturday the hall dance got canceled due to lack of funding.

## VIII. Adjournment

- i. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 by Jeremy Lao. The next Senate meeting will take place on Thursday, April 10, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room at LaFortune.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tiara Nelson  
Student Union Secretary

